



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Charles D. Baker  
Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito  
EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton  
DCR Commissioner Carol I. Sanchez

**Press Release Contacts:** Troy Wall- (617) 626-1453 or [troy.wall@state.ma.us](mailto:troy.wall@state.ma.us)

## **State Officials Unveil Reconstructed Alfond Spray Deck in Boston**

**Boston- Thursday, July 30, 2015-** Today, at a special ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the reconstructed Alfond Spray Deck located along the Charles River Esplanade, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton, Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner (DCR) Carol Sanchez, William Alfond of the William and Joan Alfond Foundation, and other stakeholders joined in celebrating the new family-friendly outdoor facility. The event highlights the successful partnership between DCR and the Alfond Foundation in constructing the new spray deck, which will be enjoyed by families for years to come.

"The Alfond Spray Deck is a wonderful example of continuing to provide the residents of Massachusetts with increased access to outdoor recreational opportunities," **said EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton.** "As a result of the partnership between state agencies and the William and Joan Alfond Foundation, children and families will be able to enjoy all that summer has to offer in a safe, fun, and family-friendly outdoor environment."

After discovering a need within the community, the William and Joan Alfond Foundation and DCR commenced a collaborative partnership to reconstruct the wading pool. By working together, the wading pool located at the Charles River Esplanade was transformed into a state of the art spray deck. The William and Joan Alfond Foundation, which was founded in 1986, supports education, healthcare, and other charitable institutions in both Maine and Massachusetts. William Alfond, president of the foundation, remained involved throughout the planning, design, and construction of the new spray deck.

"Public-private partnerships remain a unique and important method that the Department of Conservation and Recreation utilizes to enhance accessible outdoor recreational opportunities for all to enjoy, and I would like to personally thank the William and Joan Alfond Foundation for their very generous donation and their commitment to the community," **said DCR Commissioner Carol Sanchez.** "The Baker-Polito Administration remains fully committed to fostering such partnerships that benefit the public and encourage safe, fun recreational opportunities."

In addition to the reconstruction of the wading pool, the project also encompassed a number of improvements to the adjacent playground, including:

- The resurfacing of the playground;
- The installation of a water fountain and spray mister;
- The replacement of dilapidated playground equipment; and
- The installation of fencing at the spray deck.

"When DCR suggested the project, my wife Joni and I were pleased to partner with the state to create a safe way children and families can enjoy a free and safe break from the heat and have fun together," **said Bill Alfond, a longtime Beacon Hill resident and the donor behind the new Esplanade spray deck.** "The DCR team in charge of the design/build process brought the project in on time and on budget and they have an excellent operations staff. I'd encourage others to consider befriending our extraordinary state parks by partnering with DCR on much needed repairs and new facilities across the Commonwealth."

The new spray deck features the latest in aquatic technology with improved efficiency at the facility that will allow for the Alfond Spray Deck to remain open into the early fall season. Additionally, the new spray deck is safer and more accessible for a wider range of visitors to enjoy due to the zero depth entry design.

“I want to thank DCR and the Alford family for partnering to construct the spray deck and make improvements to the playground that children in our community will enjoy for years to come,” **said State Representative Jay Livingstone.**

Following today’s special ribbon cutting, the spray deck’s jets turned on to officially signify that the spray deck is open for children and families to enjoy.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation continues to explore opportunities to enhance its facilities through public-private partnerships. Recent successful projects that benefited from such partnerships include the Teddy Ebersol’s Red Sox Fields and the Hatch Memorial Shell’s Oval Lawn.

###

*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Carol Sanchez, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

- Follow DCR on Twitter ..... [twitter.com/massDCR](https://twitter.com/massDCR)
- Follow DCR on Instagram..... [instagram.com/massdcr/](https://www.instagram.com/massdcr/)
- View videos on You Tube ..... [www.youtube.com/MassEEA](https://www.youtube.com/MassEEA)
- View downloadable photographs on Flickr ..... [www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/)
- Visit the Energy Smarts blog ..... [www.mass.gov/blog/energy](http://www.mass.gov/blog/energy)
- Visit The Great Outdoors blog ..... [www.mass.gov/blog/environment](http://www.mass.gov/blog/environment)
- Visit our website..... [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)